

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----113839 162003Z /66

O 161404Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1746

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 10796

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CG, AO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON SHABA "INSURGENCY" DENY SOVIET
INVOLVEMENT

REF: STATE 123868

1. MAY 16 SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS (PRAVDA AND

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA) CARRIES FIRST REPORTS OF SHABA FIGHTING. TASS ARTICLES FROM BRUSSELS AND FROM PARIS RELY HEAVILY ON FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS TO NOTE FOLLOWING:

-- ARMED CONFLICT HAS AGAIN DEVELOPED IN SHABA PROVINCE BETWEEN INSURGENTS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OF THE CONGO (FNLC) AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS. MILITARY ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE IN THE REGION OF KOLWEZI AND MUTSHATSA.

-- FNLC COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN BRUSSELS CLAIMS THAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SEIZED, THE ZAIRIAN ARMY HAS SUFFERED LOSSES AND MANY GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS HAVE JOINED THE INSURGENTS.

-- ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY AZAP HAS CLAIMED THAT INSURGENT FORCES IN SHABA ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF A NUMBER OF STATES INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION.

-- ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT ANGOLAN PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE WHICH, SAID THE ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR, ARE TAKING PLACE HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS FROM ANGOLAN BORDERS AND WHICH CONCERN EXCLUSIVELY THE PEOPLE OF ZAIRE.

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2. IN REPORTING ITEM IN TICK THREE ABOVE, TASS PARIS GOES ON TO EDITORIALIZE AS FOLLOWS:

-- IT IS "COMPLETELY OBVIOUS" THAT ASSERTIONS OF SOVIET SUPPORT ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND ARE IMAGINARY. SUCH REPORTS ARE SPREAD TO JUSTIFY THE INTERFERENCE OF SOME WESTERN STATES IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZAIRE.

-- THIS IS BORNE OUT BY ZAIRE HAVING TURNED TO SOME NATO COUNTRIES AND TO CHINA FOR MILITARY SUPPORT IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE.

3. COMMENT: TYPICAL SOVIET MEDIA CAUTION TOWARD FAST-BREAKING AND NEW DEVELOPMENT IS SHOWN BY SEVERAL DAYS DELAY IN PRINTING FIRST REPORTS AND BY HEAVY USE OF FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS. SOVIET LINE ON "INTERNAL" NATURE OF CONFLICT REPEATS THAT OF LAST YEAR AND IS SCARCELY A SURPRISE.

4. SIGNIFICANTLY AND NOT COINCIDENTALLY SAME PAGE OF PRAVDA WHICH CARRIES ABOVE REPORTS ALSO HAS

"COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" BY V. VOLKOV WHICH OSTENSIBLY DESCRIBES RECENT LUANDA SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SOVIET-ANGOLAN MIXED COMMISSION ON QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRADE BUT WHICH ALSO DWELLS ON IMPORTANCE OF 1974 SOVIET-ANGOLAN TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND ON IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET FRIENDSHIP FOR STRENGTHENING OF SOVEREIGNTY OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS ANGOLA. THUS MOSCOW IMPLICITLY WARNS ZAIRE AND WEST THAT ANY RETALIATORY PRESSURE ON ANGOLA WILL, BY NATURE OF

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /106 W

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O 161404Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1748

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 10796

CONCERN TO THE SOVIET UNION. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 16 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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To: STATE
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